

RDN Board gives green light for the next phase of Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion planning

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is proceeding with the next phase of the design and planning for the Ravensong Aquatic Centre (RAC) expansion project. Constructed in 1995 and located in Qualicum Beach, RAC has served Oceanside communities well. With more people moving to the area every year and insufficient space to meet the growing demand for recreational services, however, the facility needs an expansion. The addition of a second pool and other amenity improvements at RAC will provide residents with greater access to aquatic, fitness and wellness programming.

“During the Master Plan community engagement process that was completed in 2019, RAC stakeholder groups shared their support of an expansion to the aquatic centre,” said Tyler Brown, RDN Chair. “An expanded RAC will provide more opportunities for residents to participate in recreational activities they identified as important to their quality of life.”

This next phase of the project will determine which expansion option best meets community needs while also considering cost implications. The RDN Board has identified two preferred options – Options 00 and C. Both include a new four-lane, 25 metre pool with ramp entry, renovated sauna and steam rooms, and new, or mostly new, change rooms, reception, lobby, public washrooms, staff support spaces and multipurpose room/classroom. Also included in the project will be seismic, electrical and mechanical upgrades and sustainability measures to meet current provincial code requirements and the RDN’s Green Building Policy.

“As the only indoor pool in a 45 km radius of its location and the most used indoor recreation facility in the Oceanside region, this expansion will help meet the recreational needs of Oceanside residents for many years,” said Brian Wiese, Oceanside Services Committee (OSC) Chair. “The Committee is looking forward to receiving more information from the project team and putting forth a recommendation to the Board.”

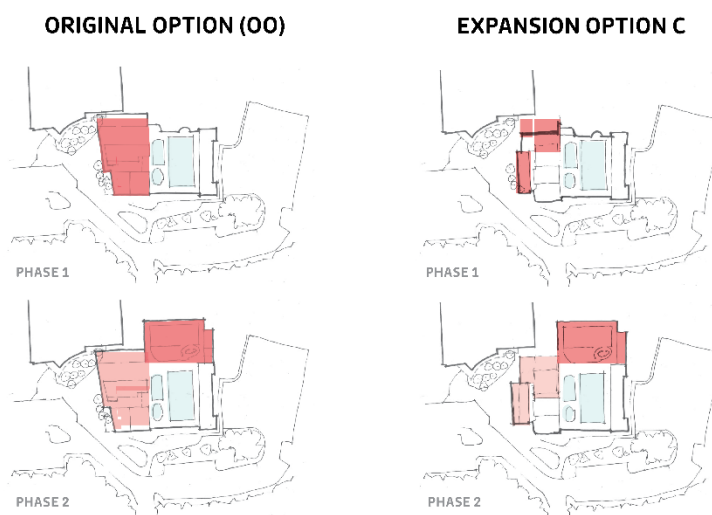
The Oceanside Services Committee will receive a recommendation for the RAC expansion at their November 17, 2021 meeting. The report will provide refined timelines and any implications stemming from the City of Parksville’s progress on an aquatic centre in Parksville. If approved by the committee, the recommendation will then be put forward to the board for review and approval.

The target start date under consideration for the multi-phase project is late 2023 / early 2024. With direction provided by the OSC and RDN Board, the expansion will occur in two phases to minimize disruptions and closures to the public as well as allow more planning time to consider what pool aquatic space the community may want.

Residents can learn more about the Ravensong Aquatic Centre expansion and sign up for project updates at getinvolved.rdn.ca/ravensongexpansion.

Get Involved RDN!

PHASED OPTIONS COMPARISON MATRIX



Phase 1 Allows for Future Pool Expansion (Second Tank)	Yes ✓	Yes ✓
Enhances Changerooms/Support Spaces	100% new ✓	73% new / 27% renovated ✓
Increases Overall Area	Yes 23% increase (Phase 1) 64% increase (Phase 2) ✓	Yes 20% increase (Phase 1) 56% increase (Phase 2) ✓
Total Construction Time	Phase 1 14-18 months Phase 2 16-20 months Total 30-38 months	Phase 1 14-18 months Phase 2 16-20 months Total 30-38 months
Required Shutdown	2 x 2-month closure periods ✓	2 x 2-month closure periods ✓
Phase 1 Project Cost	\$10.58 million	\$8.06 million
Phase 2 Project Cost*	\$9.28 million ✓	\$9.50 million
Total Project Cost	\$19.86 million	\$17.55 million
Unphased Project Cost	\$18.67 million	\$16.19 million

*Class D Cost estimates listed do not factor escalation to start of construction.

- Phase 1 of construction includes change rooms and support spaces and for Phase 2, the aquatic spaces. Construction closures are estimates only and are subject to change.
- Cost estimates are based on April 2021 dollars.
- Option 00 and Option C are outlined in further detail in the presentation to the OSC on June 11, 2021 located on the project page [here](#).

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Rebecca Taylor,
Communications Coordinator
Regional District of Nanaimo

☎ 250-390-6502

✉ rtaylor@rdn.bc.ca

Get Involved RDN!